

Dance Notes

In Dayton, Ohio

The Dayton Division of Recreation and the YWCA joined forces to present a successful program on August 18th at the Island Park Band Shell, portraying "what happens in a public park in a mid-Western city during a summer evening". What does happen? A folk dance festival! (I sure wish it were a general fact!) American Squarers, Amerindians, Israelis, Greeks, Hungarians, Lebanese, Lithuanians, Mexicans and Poles participated presenting a most interesting selection of folk dances.

St. Ann's, Nova Scotia

Over a thousand Scotts representing various clans held a Mod at St. Ann's Gaelic College on Cape Breton in Nova Scotia. The six-day Mod was held during August 6-11th. The weather, but for one day, was wet—with a heavy downpour almost constantly, but it didn't dampen the Mod mood. This Mod was considered the largest ever held of Gaels. Even at church the entire service was held in Gaelic (Scottish). Among the participants were many dignitaries including the Hon. Lt. Governor of Nova Scotia, Alister Fraser, donned in a tartan. Tartans were the thing, plaids representing almost every clan. There was plenty piping, singing and highland dancing. Hoot Mon, Ciad Mile Failte!

Denver, Colo.

Open air dancing was held weekly from Memorial Day until Labor Day at the Civic Center. Each Tuesday was dedicated to folk dancing and each Friday to Square dancing. Good weather prevailed at all times and dancing under the stars a mile high was inspirational. Nationality programs were presented during intermissions. Fay Feree and Walter Drake alternated in chairmaning the programs and each evening brought out great numbers of folk dancers and spectators.

Glendale, Calif.

The Glendale festival was held on August 29th. Don Landauers group opened with a beautifully executed Tatarotchkka. Los Danzantes (Walters) did La Bamba, a cute little Mexican number climaxing with the bow tying of the man's sash, which is spread flat on the floor. This tying is done with the feet only and while dancing. All the four couples tied it! Vivian Woll's group from San Diego presented well their "upper-class" Mazur, and later they reappeared with Treffnertanz. The entire festival was creditable. Afterwards many attended the Open House held by the Landauers and there were kolos and more kolos danced.

Boston, Mass.

The Boston Arts Festival (June 6-20) was the snazziest of all festivals. It was truly an "art festival" held at the Boston Public Garden. A large exhibit of the arts and crafts was on display. Each day saw a different program. On June 7-8 the Opera "Marriage of Figaro", June 10th the New England Conservatory Chorus with classic, spiritual and folk melodies, June 12th The New Dance Group of Sophie Maslow presenting expressionistic variations on folk themes, June 13th the poet laureate Robert Frost read his own works, June 14th a program of Ethnic Folk dances; Scottish pipers, Lithuanians, English, Poles, American squares, Swedes, Latvians and Scottish dancers participated. June 16, 17, 18 saw the play "Ah Wilderness" (Eugene O'Neil), June 19 with Boston's Pops Orchestra (Arthur Fiedler, conducting), June 20th closed the festival with the All Saints Church Boys Choir of Worcester, Mass., who presented a program of sacred compositions. It was a truly most complete arts festival, successful and enjoyable.

SANTA MONICA MIDSUMMER EVE, JULY 25

One of the finest festivals Southern California has seen in a long time is the word passed along from Santa Barbara to San Diego.

A well-balanced dance program and the excellent wooden floor laid over the cement block, made dancing especially enjoyable. The floor was crowded with eager and colorfully costumed dancers participating in old and new favorite dances. Some 6000-7000 spectators sat amazed, lavish in praise for the original South Seas decorations and the hundreds of colorful costumed dancers.

The exhibitions were well-executed and well received. Eitne Lally and our Lani Papadol started things off with the "Two Hand Reel" and "Hornpipe", followed by the International Dance Circle in their "Cotton Eyed Joe—Texas Style". Nice to see that group exhibiting again. Then the Ampol Club did "Goralski" in their colorful costumes and exuberant style.

The second set of exhibitions was led off by Francine Zeran and Chris Tasulis doing "Zeimpekiko", a flirtatious dance of the Aegean Isles. The Vasa Folk Dance Club, costumed in authentic Swedish Dress, danced two numbers: "Ostgotapolka" and "Vingakers Dans". It's always delightful to see that group dance. The Yosemite Workshop Dancers performed well with "Tatarotchkka", the dance from Crimea, first seen at Statewide.

Probably the most striking and surprising idea of the day was the costume parade. 58 dancers dressed in authentic and carefully copied costumes paraded before the judges for the judging of the best costume in each class. The judges: Minnie Anstine, Carolyn Mitchell and Vivian Woll are certainly to be praised for the difficult, yet able, job they did in selecting the winners:

Elsie Ivanciek (authentic Croatian) Women's Division
Chris Tasulis (authentic Greek) Men's Division
Ruth Garber (homemade Hungarian) Women's Division
Jerry Adam (homemade Czechoslovakian) Men's Division.

13-inch trophies were presented to the winners. Many favorable comments and thanks have been extended for the idea of promoting and stimulating the wearing of costumes at our festivals.

In addition to the costume parade there were two booths set up, with manikins, displaying costumes from 12 different countries.

If you think people came only to dance, ask Carolyn Mitchell. Carolyn, who is director of the International Dance Circle, danced in their exhibition, acted as judge in the costume parade, called her own set of squares, and then subbed for the caller of the second set of squares when the caller was delayed by the traffic jam caused by the crowd.

All in all a wonderful festival, and until next Midsummer Eve's Dance, pleasant memories of the last one.

Valerie Staigh

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SUCCESS AGAIN AT ENUMCLAW

June Loesch

On August 14th and 15th the International Council of the Washington Folk Dance Federation presented its annual festival of folk dances at the King Country Recreation Park in Enumclaw, Washington. A record crowd of spectators were entertained by members of clubs who presented a number of dances, old and new. Each year since the first festival, citizens of Enumclaw have given wholehearted support to this event.

Host of the festival have always been the Glacier Gliders of Enumclaw. Masters of Ceremonies included Floyd West, Merle Dougherty, Al Carlson, Bucky Gans, Dorothy Little, Clay Fanslow, Gordon Tracie and Ted Morgan.

The festival opened with a meeting of delegates from the various clubs at noon on Saturday. This was followed by a street dance until dinner at 6:00 p.m.

The Saturday evening dance offered a continuous program of dances and exhibitions. The Folklanders of Seattle danced La Jota Aragonesa costumed in the traditional dress.

The Glacier Gliders of Enumclaw presented a Swiss Landler accompanied by Swiss musicians. This group opened their number with a stately march around the hall led by Robbie Ulrich who did some fast Swiss flag twirling. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Deck exhibited a group of Swiss dance figures while their children rang a series of cattle bells. Rosemarie VanCleve sang several Swiss folk songs accompanying herself on the accordion.

The International Folk Dances of Richland performed the humorous Los Viejos (dance of the little old men) from Mexico. The masks used in this dance were the skillful work of Theda Dougherty.

On Sunday morning there was an institute of Scandinavian and Irish dances led by Godron Tracie, director of Nordiska Folkdancers. Also several dances from the recent Stockton Folk Dance Camp were presented by members who had been in attendance.

Following the institute, an outdoor dance was held on the lawn adjoining the field house. The International Folk Dancers of Portland offered the German dance Suennros. The Nordiska Folkdancers of Seattle gave a precise performance of two Scandinavian dances. A group of exchange students from Japan presented The Fisherman's Dance, and The Coal Miner's Dance (Tanko Bushi). The surprise of the afternoon was the arrival of the local Yugoslavian tamburitza orchestra who played several numbers including some of those ever popular kolos.

Many of the participants had some from as far away as Corvallis, Oregon and Pullman, Washington and included Lucile Czarnowski from Berkeley, California. So following the afternoon dancing, many spent the early evening "dancing for fun" and so ended another great State Festival.

21ST ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION OF THE UKRAINIAN YOUTH'S LEAGUE

Well over five hundred representatives of younger generation Ukrainian American and Canadian organizations and an equal number of guests, gathered in Chicago over Labor Day weekend, Sept. 3-6, at the Hotel La Salle, for the 21st anniversary Convention of the Ukrainian Youth's League of North America, Inc.

The Convention was co-chaired by William Polewchak, Elizabeth, N. J. and William Mural, Cleveland, Ohio. The main theme of the convention was stated that a free world cannot come into being as long as the 45 million freedom loving Ukrainian people do not regain their freedom from the Russian tyrannical imperialism. They also pledged continued cooperation with the Ukrainian National Association to further develop Ukrainian summer courses, cooperate with the Ukrainian Olympiad Committee in their efforts to organize a Ukrainian Sports Festival, and cooperate with the Federation of Ukrainian American Students Organizations of America.

The "Music and Dance Festival" was presented at the magnificent and newly built St. Nicholas Ukrainian Church Auditorium on Sunday afternoon. The excellent program featured numbers by Lillian Opychany, soprano; Victoria Kerluck, violin; the Twin Cities Ballet of St. Paul and Minneapolis; the Ukrainian String Ensemble the St. Nicholas Church Choir and the Choir Boyan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

The concert was followed by a banquet at the Hotel La 18

Salle during which Mr. Dmytro Halychyn, president of the Ukrainian National Association, was principal speaker. Other speakers were Michael Piznak, representing the Ukrainian Congress Committee, Congresswoman Church and Senatorial candidate Joseph Meek.

After the sessions the film "Treasures of Ukraine" was presented. The comments were most complimentary. Watch for this film. You'll be hearing more about it. It is intended that "Treasures of Ukraine" be presented in the major cities throughout the United States and Canada.

New officers for the coming year are: President, Michael Solomon, Youngstown, Ohio; Vice-Presidents, Alexander Fronchick, Newark, N. J., Walter Warwick, Canada, and Anne Dudynsky, Detroit, Mich.; Financial Secretary, Michael Molesky, Cleveland, Ohio; Recording Secretary, Stella Zaharchuk, Elizabeth, N. J.; Treasurer, John Mitchell, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Advisors, Walter Bacad, New York, N. Y., William Mural, Cleveland, Ohio, William Polewchak, Elizabeth, N. J., Harry Kasha, Clark-Rahway, N. J. and Joseph Smindak, New York, N. Y. (O.Z.)



This is a sketch of Dave Klauba done by our Len Mickas. Dave is one of the most graceful, lithe and talented Amerindian dancers of the Chicago area.

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INTERNATIONAL HOUSE FOLK FESTIVAL

The Annual Folk Dance party at the International House of the University of Chicago, held on July 10th, was very good! The demonstrations consisted of the Scottish, Irish, Lithuanian and Polish groups. The orchestra outdid itself and surprised everyone. Emily Mucha has done a good job with her Polish dancers—they got a terrific hand, too. She MC'd the job in professional style. There was quite a good spectator audience and this was good, too. (Bernie Kosnick).